

Air Force knowledge with numerous engagements between Congress and the Department of the Air Force.

Chris expertly conveyed Department of the Air Force positions on the Air Force Future Design that included the future bomber, tanker, and fighter force. Chris' direct support provided the U.S. Senate critical information necessary for three National Defense Authorization Acts. His efforts helped establish the U.S. Space Force, ensure the confirmation of the 25th and 26th Air Force Secretaries, the 22nd Air Force Chief of Staff, and ensured the Department of the Air Force support of the National Defense Strategy in our return to Great Power Competition.

Lieutenant Colonel Ryan planned and led delegations for Members of Congress on visits all over the world to include the bicameral Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Reagan National Defense Forum. In fact, Chris escorted me to the United Kingdom and Ukraine in 2019. Chris' significant efforts led to successful engagements between this governing body and senior Department of Defense Officials, including the Secretary of the Air Force. All of these engagements helped U.S. Senators understand defense equities and their impact on national security. Due to his direct involvement and stewardship, Members of Congress were able to make informed decisions and ensure the Department of the Air Force was properly resourced and funded.

After serving in this vital role for the past 3 years and becoming a fixture on Capitol Hill, Lieutenant Colonel Ryan will move to his next assignment, as deputy group commander, 514th Maintenance Group, located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Chris, his wife Rachel—the chief of staff for the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance at the Department of State—and their children Joshua, Kathrine, and Emma have sacrificed much as a family in service to our Nation. I am thankful for Chris' service and his work with my office and the Senate over the past 3 years on issues important to this great Nation. I salute this American patriot whose selfless service has kept our country safe and strong.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, over the past couple of years, Ohioans and Americans around the country have worked and sacrificed to get our country through this pandemic. Among those who have risen to meet this historic moment are the dedicated public servants on our Senate staff. These patriots have given their all over these last 20 months to protect Ohioans' health, to put money in people's pockets, to keep a roof over people's heads, and to help our State and our country overcome this health and economic crisis.

I would not have been able to do the vital work we have done in the Senate

without their expertise and dedication and talent, and we would not be where we are today as a country—with rising wages, record job growth, and life-saving vaccines—without them. This holiday season, I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking these dedicated professionals for their service to our country:

Ben Ashman; Mohammad Aslami; Blair Austin; Brian Ayers; Diana Baron; Shilesha Bamberg; Sarah Benzing; Emily Blaydes; Gabriel Bitol; Chad Bolt; Alyssa Brockington; Alea Brown; Homer Carlisle; Dani Carlson; Megan Cheney; Min Cheng; Emily Chipps; William Clayton; Beth Clodfelter; Beth Cooper; Alan Cox; J. Bradley Deane; Andrew Dickson; Abigail Duggan; Anthony Eliopoulos; Corey Frayer; Chanty Gbaye; Joe Gilligan; Francis Goins; Anna Gokaldas; Ross Griffin; Stanley Hardy; Sarah Harms; James Harnett; Diop Harris; Rachael Hartford; Jeremy Hekhuis; Joseph Henry; Christian Hill; Leah Hill; Mycheala Holley; Patrick Horn; Aarti Iyer; Alysa James; Marie Therese Kane; Matthew Keyes; Mike King; Zac Kiser; Sue Klein; Geoffrey Knight; Erica Krause; Ben Lockshin; Ann Longworth Orr; Mayra Lozano; Brian Lyons; Megan Malara; Marilee Marks; Drew Martineau; Allison Mazzeo; Jonathan McCracken; Colin McGinnis; Rajani Menon; John Miller; Samantha Miller; Katie Mulhall Quintela; Paulanne Oakes; Tanya Otsuka; Sneha Pandya; John Patterson; Emily Pellegrino; Jordan Pennell; Trudy Perkins; Seth Pringle; John Richards; Charissee Ridgeway; Kate Rodriguez; Pam Rosado; Phil Rudd; John Ryan; Vincent Sarubbi; Vinny Sheu; Sarah Shalash; Ellen Short; William Shostand; Fátima Sierra-Vargas; Jan Singelmann; Cierra Stewart; Laura Swanson; Ché Thomas; Nora Todd; Mary Topolinski; Elisha Tuku; Elaine Vilem; Meghan Vogel; Dariah Williams; Carolina Young.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RICELAND FOODS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Riceland Foods.

Riceland's success story mirrors the growth of rice production in Arkansas. The first rice crop grown in Arkansas was produced in 1904. As more Arkansas farmers embraced this new crop, they found that relying on buyers from Texas or Louisiana, who passed through Arkansas infrequently, made sales difficult. That led farmers to build Arkansas' first rice mill in Stuttgart in 1907.

Stuttgart would soon become the center of Arkansas' burgeoning rice industry. In the years around World War I, rice crop prices fluctuated wildly, leading Arkansas producers to meet in Stuttgart to find a path to ensure continued viability. The Arkansas Rice Growers Cooperative Association was born out of this gathering.

The cooperative began as only a rice sales organization. As rice farming became more popular in Arkansas, the Arkansas Rice Growers Cooperative Association began leasing and eventually purchasing mills to process rice grown by area farmers.

In 1946, the cooperative began marketing its products under the Riceland label. In 1960, it diversified by merging with the Arkansas Grain Cooperative, which shared soybeans with neighboring soybean processing plant in Stuttgart. Shortly thereafter, Riceland Foods became the official name for the cooperative, which would remain headquartered in Stuttgart.

Today, Arkansas is the Nation's leading rice producer, and Riceland has grown into the world's largest miller and marketer of rice, as well as one of the Mid-South's major soybean processors.

Riceland has its own signature brands for home cooking and is also a major industrial supplier for companies such as Anheuser-Busch, General Mills, Gerber, and Kellogg's. They also supply to the food service industry nationwide.

The rice the cooperative's farmers grow is turned into products that reach consumers in more than 75 countries in North America, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

At a recent celebration to mark Riceland's 100th anniversary, chairman of the board Roger Pohlner spotlighted the cooperative's greatest assets: its members and employees. He told attendees, "Our founding members knew we were stronger together." The cooperative's 100 years of success is evidence of just how true that statement is.

I congratulate Riceland for reaching this historic milestone and wish them many more centuries of success.●

TRIBUTE TO JULIA RITA URSONE

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, today, I rise to recognize Mrs. Julia "Julie" Rita Ursone, a longtime Connecticut resident who turns 100 on January 8, 2022.

Born in Providence, RI, Mrs. Ursone was the child of Italian immigrants who became U.S. citizens. She moved to Stamford, CT, in 1947, where she has lived ever since.

Mrs. Ursone grew up during the Great Depression and readily supported American efforts during World War II through factory work.

To this day, she still lives in the house she built in 1951 with her late husband, who served in World War II and was an active member of their community. Passionate about doing her part in support of our Nation, Mrs. Ursone remains an active voter.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mrs. Julia Ursone, her son Lou, and the rest of her family on this milestone of her 100th birthday.●

RECOGNIZING SMOKEY PIG BAR-B-Q

• Mr. PAUL. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an